

POLITICS AND SCIENCE

Last August, I released a study documenting more than twenty instances in which the scientific process has been interfered with by the Administration. Global warming, missile defense, HIV/AIDS, embryonic stem cell research, abstinence only education, and lead poisoning are among the many issues that have been affected.

Although the Administration criticized this report, since its release many others have come forward with similar findings. More than 60 prominent scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, have issued a statement calling for an end to the Administration's procedures.

Historically, federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have enjoyed global reputations for scientific excellence. They must be free to promote scientific research and develop science-based policies. That is why I proposed an amendment to H.R. 2432 "to establish an independent commission to investigate the politicization of science and make recommendations for how to protect science in the regulatory process from political and ideological manipulation and interference."



We must protect scientific research on global warming, HIV/AIDS, stem cells and other areas from political interference.

FUMING OVER GAS PRICES

Prices at the gas pump are soaring and oil companies are posting record-high profits. No state has been harder hit than California. We will spend an estimated \$2.35 billion more on gasoline from Memorial Day to Labor Day than we spent during the same period last year.

The House of Representatives has passed energy legislation, supported by the oil and gas industry, that would only make matters worse. According to the Energy Information Administration, the legislation would increase average gasoline prices by 3 cents per gallon and 8.1 cents per gallon for reformulated gasoline, which is widely used in California.

The legislation would also immunize the industry from its financial and clean-up obligations for MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) contamination. MTBE, a fuel additive that has

contaminated groundwater supplies throughout the country, will cost billions to clean up. California has been harmed by MTBE contamination more than any other state. In Santa Monica, 75% of the drinking water wells are now unusable due to MTBE contamination.

The House Republican leadership has insisted that liability protection for the oil companies be included as part of its energy strategy. But if Congress lets oil companies off the hook, taxpayers will be left to pay the tab.



Gas prices and oil company profits are at record highs.

CONGRESS MUST NOT ABDICATE ITS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

Free Pass From Congress

There is a simple but deplorable principle at work. In both the Clinton and Bush eras, oversight has been driven by raw partisanship. Congressional leaders have vacillated between the extremes of abusing their investigative powers and ignoring them, depending on the party affiliation of the president.

approach. Congressional oversight is essential to our constitutional system of checks and balances. Excessive oversight distracts and diminishes the executive branch. But absence of oversight invites corruption and mistakes. The Founders correctly perceived that concentration of power leads to abuse of power if unchecked.

Our nation needs a more balanced

– Henry A. Waxman
Washington Post, July 6, 2004

IRAQI PRISONER ABUSES

The United States is a nation founded on the idea of democracy with checks and balances to prevent concentration and abuse of power. It is critical that Congress conduct a full, public investigation of prisoner abuses in Iraq and elsewhere. I believe the House of Representatives has failed in its constitutional oversight responsibilities. That is why I have launched my own investigation of this scandal in conjunction with the ranking Democratic members of the six committees of jurisdiction.

Our government has a duty to determine how far-reaching the scandal is, how far up in the chain of command responsibility for the abuses go, why civilian contractors were involved in abusing prisoners, and whether Administration policies or directives resulted in the torture.

We owe it the American people, the Iraqi people—and especially the U.S. troops who have served with honor—to learn the whole story and take steps to ensure that such a scandal never occurs again.

IRAQ CONTRACTING

Congress must also investigate serious contracting problems in Iraq such as why taxpayers were charged inflated prices for gasoline and for millions of meals that were never served to the troops; why there is so little to show for the billions that have already been spent on the reconstruction effort; and why contracts are being awarded without competition—or even why there's been no formal justification for eliminating competition.

To learn more about my investigations of Iraq please visit:

www.house.gov/waxman
www.house.gov/reform/min

WHAT SENIORS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

The Medicare drug discount card program went into effect on June 1, 2004.

Low-income seniors who qualify for a \$600 credit will benefit under the program and should sign up for a discount card.

Other seniors should study the benefits of the various discount cards on the market. Seniors may be able to get better prices through their local pharmacy or over the internet.

Under California state law, Medicare recipients are entitled to Medi-Cal prices for their prescription drugs, which may be lower than some discount card prices.

Seniors may enroll in only one Medicare-endorsed card per year and, once enrolled, they cannot change cards during the course of the year. Drug companies, however, may

change the discounts they offer on drugs once a month.

Unfortunately, some of the discount card information on Medicare's website has not been accurate. Seniors should check with their pharmacy to learn which discount cards it will accept. They should also check with the company that makes their drug to confirm the amount of the discount it is offering.



Congressman Waxman discusses Medicare reform and other issues with constituents at the Kol Tikvah congregation in Woodland Hills.

The following websites have more information:

www.medicare.gov
www.dhs.ca.gov



CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL STUDENTS ENTERING OUR SERVICE ACADEMIES!

Congressman Waxman congratulates 30th CD students entering the United States Service Academies: Chanel Kass (Naval Academy), Kesha Brown (West Point), and Robert Rose (West Point). Also entering the Academies are Jonathan Lawes (West Point), Christine Ong (West Point), and Hunter Armour (Naval Academy).